

**March 14, 2014**

**In opposition to  
Proposed Senate Bill No. 404:  
AN ACT CONCERNING BUILDING PERMIT FEES FOR CLASS I RENEWABLE  
ENERGY PROJECTS AND RENEWABLE ENERGY CREDITS FOR TRASH-TO-  
ENERGY FACILITIES.**

**Chairperson Osten, Chairperson Rojas and Members of the Committee, Thank you for the opportunity to testify today in opposition to Proposed Senate Bill No. 404: AN ACT CONCERNING BUILDING PERMIT FEES FOR CLASS I RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS AND RENEWABLE ENERGY CREDITS FOR TRASH-TO-ENERGY FACILITIES. My name is Joseph Wasserman and I am a community organizer with Connecticut Coalition for Environmental Justice or CCEJ.**

**Our concern is that by creating a floor for energy credits, SB404 subsidizes the incineration of trash. Hartford is the trash burning capital of this region, with one of the largest incinerators in the nation. Trash is burned in Hartford 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, releasing toxins into the air we breathe, such as dioxin, lead, cadmium and fine particles. Dioxin gets into our food chain and is considered the deadliest chemical known to science. Fine particles can be very deadly as people breathe them into their lungs.**

**We all know about the high asthma rates in Hartford and cities in our state. Many of the toxins we are breathing in from the trash incineration contribute to these high asthma rates. These toxins, combine with other toxins Hartford residents are constantly exposed to create a toxic chemical soup. While the levels of toxins emitted by the trash incinerator may be legal, the impact on our health is concerning. The public health impact is particularly concerning for residents of the Low Income Communities of Color that surround both the Hartford and Bridgeport incinerators, that shoulder an unfair environmental burden.**

**There needs to be more focus on reaching and expanding our recycling goals, as an alternative to the dirty business of trash incineration. We, indeed, can do better as far as recycling and waste prevention. The fact that Connecticut is only at about a 25% recycling rate while San Francisco is at a 75% recycling rate shows we can do better. Neighboring Massachusetts is estimated to be at a recycling rate of between 36% and 44 %, much higher than that of Connecticut.**

**For every job created by incineration, recycling creates 10 jobs. Besides creating jobs, investment in recycling and waste prevention helps move us forward to the green economy of the future. That is one of the reasons why over 75 Hartford businesses signed on to our campaign to reduce trash incineration and increase recycling. Recycling and waste prevention is good for business.**

**Subsidizing trash incinerations moves us backwards and continues the trashing of our air and environment. Please reject SB 404**